

18 February 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 18 February 1969

DD/I distributed copies of The Michigan Daily article by Steve Nissen reporting on the briefing session for the student editors on 14 February.

*DD/I called attention to the distribution of ADD/I's memorandum,

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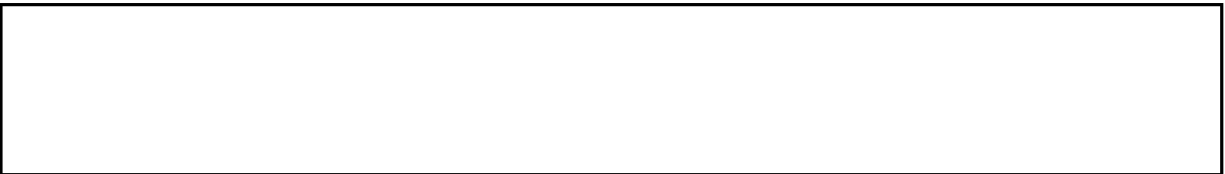
and briefly summarized the ADD/I's tentative conclusions. The Director noted his concern over the number of copies which had been distributed and asked the DD/I to emphasize to each recipient that the memorandum is for "in-house use only" and not to be used as a basis for community discussions, particularly COMIREX.

Godfrey briefed on the commencement of auto traffic harassment into Berlin, accompanied by heavy examination of passenger documentation.

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[] reported that he has nearly completed the Director's report to the President on the Eaton Group findings. The Director asked that he be advised when the work has been completed and is ready for his review.



DD/S solicited management's support of the Fairfax County Blood Donor Program and observed that, unless we can increase participation, the County may be forced to drop the Agency from this Program. Contributions have dropped from an average of 150 gallons a month to 113.

Maury reported that he delivered the Director's letter to Senator Jackson, who doubts that Senator McClellan will be willing to do much in support of our position on the Ervin bill. Senator Jackson recommended a strong effort directed toward Senators Russell and Stennis.

Maury reported that Senator Jackson is available for lunch with the Director on 1 March and will be glad to bring Senator McClellan along.

Executive Director reported that he called Civil Service Commission Chairman Hampton and found him as opposed to the Ervin bill as was John Macy. Houston will be in touch with CSC General Counsel Tony Mondello. Although Mondello is new to Government, Executive Director reported that he views the Ervin bill as being bad for Government in general.

*Maury reported that the briefing before the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy is firm for Thursday and advised that briefing materials should include resumes of counterespionage cases. The Director asked that the DD/S&T and D/OSI accompany him to the briefing.

Maury noted that a firm date for the Director's appearance before the full Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet been fixed.

*Maury noted that the Director is scheduled to testify on the NPT problem on 26 or 27 February. Following a long discussion on the genesis of this requirement and what exactly is expected of the Director, the Director asked Maury to contact Senator Stennis and determine (a) whether it is possible to relieve the Agency of any responsibility to provide testimony and (b) precisely what material should be covered if testimony is desired. The Director asked that at least one week be allowed for the preparation of materials prior to his possible appearance.

*Maury read a letter from Senator Thurmond to various departments including CIA requesting information on any interagency groups, including the identity of the participants, which led to the NPT. The Director asked the DD/I to review this situation, particularly SIG materials, to determine whether we were in fact involved.

Bross reported that he will be meeting tomorrow with General Carroll on the requirements which Pueblo-type missions are supposed to satisfy. The Director asked Bross to read Admiral Taylor's memorandum on this matter.

DD/P reported that he and [] briefed the Attorney General yesterday on 303 matters.

The Director observed that station reports on their conversations with Senator Symington indicate that their briefings went well.

The Director noted that advance copies of his testimony before the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy are due out no later than 1000 on Wednesday, 19 February, and asked the DD/I specifically to review prior to Wednesday morning that section of the testimony dealing with []

*The Director asked the DD/P to initiate a collection effort targeted at obtaining more information on Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine National Council. He also asked that available data on Arafat be consolidated.

L. K. White

*Extracted and sent to action officer

The CIA's multi-billion dollar 'need to know'

By STEVE NISSEN
Special to the Daily

LANGLEY, Va.—Nestled inconspicuously in a forest not far from the capital sprawls the massive headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency, the largest and most controversial espionage network in the western world.

Until yesterday no newsman had ever received an official briefing or attended a press conference at the CIA's Langley nerve center. Whatever their reasons for breaking with traditional policy, five top CIA officials, including the executive director of the agency, yesterday gave 20 college editors a brief glimpse of the CIA's multibillion dollar operation.

It was a frightening look at a very different world governed by the "need to know" principle and guarded by an elaborate system of security badges, locked doors, and armed guards.

"The need to know principle" as it was eventually explained to us, is an iron clad rule of the espionage business. No person who works for the CIA with the possible exception of the director and his close assistants, is ever given access to any information unless he has proven a "need to know" of that information in the discharge of his duties.

Stated more simply, only the top four or five men in the CIA ever know what each of the agency's divisions are doing at the moment.

Before our briefing, we were given absolutely no information on where the conference would be held or who would speak. All CIA Public Relations Director Jack Goodwin would say was that we were to assemble in the lobby of the Shoreham Hotel at precisely 9 a.m.

The CIA's chartered bus showed up a few minutes later and after a quick conference with our representative, Goodwin agreed to go ahead with the briefings on several rigorous conditions.

No cameras or tape recorders would be allowed and in addition, no reproduction of the briefing in any form whatsoever would be permitted. The entire session was to be taken as "off-the-record," for our own information only.

Later, a third stipulation was made: we were forbidden to take notes at any time during the nearly two-hour session.

The ground rules having been agreed to, we were loaded on the bus, where Goodwin reiterated that it would be an off-the record briefing.

"We are the silent service of our government," he said, "and this is the first time we've ever done this." The briefing would be conducted by the "senior of-

ficials" of the CIA, Goodwin said, in a tone of voice which prompted a murmur of skepticism.

Everyone really expected a lecture from a simple-minded public relation hack rather than top CIA officials.

Goodwin's speech could have told us a great deal about the tone of our briefing, for his style, as we later learned, was characteristic of the CIA's leadership.

He adeptly sprouted euphemisms like a funeral director helping a man plan his future burial. "Some of the questions you may have about the CIA, we can't answer because it wouldn't be in the national interest," Goodwin warned.

"We are like a university," he said in a conversation while on route. "We have libraries and researchers just like any university," he commented.

And later, he added with what seemed to be honest sincerity, "We are working not only for our country, but for peace throughout the world."

About 20 minutes from Washington, the bus turned off the highway and was waved on through a security gate leading toward the CIA's main building. Nowhere were there any signs identifying the facility as the CIA headquarters. One small notice on the gate said that the area is U.S. government property.

Entering the main building we were given special badges identifying us as visitors and limiting our clearance.

Later, it was explained that the badges are worn by all personnel and are printed with at least one letter in a series A through H. Each letter apparently corresponded to a particular section of the building and the more senior or important the person, the more areas he was cleared for. I saw no one in the corridors whose badges were marked for more than two or three of the areas.

The main lobby is very large and almost completely devoid of furniture. A single inscription is etched in the wall. It says, "And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

There were two other notices. One instructed all personnel to wear their badges at all times. The other warned that no cameras could be taken into the building.

We took a short walk through the corridors to the conference room where the briefing would be held.

We passed several offices on the way. One was marked "Immunitization" where CIA operatives apparently are inoculated before going abroad. Our escorts were none of us could wander off if we

were inclined to explore on our own.

Another office was cryptically designated as SB OPS. Personnel who we passed in the corridors looked inquisitive as we walked by. Visitors are undoubtedly rare and we were very obviously visitors from our shabby appearances, as opposed to the very clean cut and dignified dress of the CIA men.

Ushered into a conference room, we were greeted by Col. Lawrence K. White, executive director of the CIA.

"What to do about our image has been a vexing problem for the CIA practically from its inception," he said. "The purpose of our briefing is to allow prospective professional journalists to understand why the CIA exists and how it operates."

It was the wrong thing to say, for it immediately conjured up the image of a brainwashing session to indoctrinate young and impressionable journalists.

White's short speech was a defense of the CIA and indictment of the press for criticizing it.

"A great deal of what we do is secret," White said. "But a great deal which the agency does is open."

"We have learned that it is virtually impossible to display our image through the press in the U.S.," he continued. "Our research is not what makes the headlines," he added. "But if we can talk frankly and without being quoted, the activity of the agency can be properly explained."

He then ordered the newsmen to stop taking notes and one by one the pencils and notepads disappeared into pockets and purses.

White introduced R. Jack Smith, the agency's deputy director for intelligence, who, along with three others, runs each of the agency's four major divisions.

"We are sometimes far more secret than we need to be," Smith admitted. "Setting up a secret organization right in the middle of a democratic society like ours is extremely difficult," he added. "We have no protection from the public's scrutiny."

Smith gave the expected definitions of the CIA role as intelligence advisor to the President and the National Security Council. He recited the usual notion that the lack of good intelligence information prior to Pearl Harbor was the reason for CIA's creation.

He frankly discussed the sources of CIA information, listing newspapers, monitoring of foreign radio broadcasts, embassy reports, and electronic surveillance.

But it was not until he discussed "secondary" functions of the CIA that the briefing began to get interesting.

Smith described two areas as "espionage and covert action."

He defined espionage as the process of "finding out information others would not like us to have."

Covert action proved to be a more difficult subject. Smith finally settled on "taking action that we can deny having a part in."

He discussed the preparation of a 6-10 page report daily for the President which briefs him on the past 24 hours.

He paused to note that the "CIA does not indicate to the President what we think should be done," but rather only presents him with information on which to make his own decision.

Smith carefully cited controls placed on the CIA. "We are probably the most thoroughly controlled government agency," he said. Congress knows where every dollar goes. There are bureau of the budget inspectors reviewing each of the CIA programs, he added.

Smith ended the presentation by making a case for the "controls" the CIA places on itself in the area of covert action.

He said such activity is "usually done at the instigation of an ambassador." A committee which includes representatives from the State and Defense Departments and the President and the director of the CIA make the final decision to act.

He also discussed the CIA's ties with National Student Association. He noted that CIA financing was needed to counter expenditures of the Soviet Union which were supporting other international student organizations.

Lining the corridor leading to the conference room to which we were taken was a series of large offices with large vault-type combination locks on the doors. The reasons for them weren't specified, but along with the badges they lent to the trip an air that seemed appropriate for the CIA.

It emphasized all the more how different a world exists inside the secret confines of the CIA, a world governed by principles far different from those which exist in the lives of the press and the public.